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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Character and Morale of Soviet Youth 2. Attitudes of Soviet Women	DATE DISTR.	31 October 1956
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1. The morale of Soviet youth seemed to be good, although it was difficult to analyze. About 75 percent of the youth of both sexes were enrolled in the Komsomol. These persons seemed to be fanatically devoted to Soviet political instruction. Nevertheless, when speaking privately, they sometimes expressed discontent because of the scarcity of economic goods and services. If one spoke to several of them together, they were reserved and stuck to the Soviet political line.
2. Generally speaking, the fanaticism of Soviet youth was the result of the constant propaganda to which they were subjected. They continuously heard that they lived better than any other people in the world and that there was nothing but poverty in capitalist states. They were urged to be proud of their nationality, high level of civilization, and intelligence, and were told that the submarine, airplane, locomotive, radio, and almost everything else were creations of Soviet men of science.
3. Details about life in free countries made a great impression on Soviet women, who after being exposed to the chivalrous behavior of the prisoners, came to feel that Western women fared better than they did. They were astonished to hear that in other countries women did not have to work to support the household, as they doubted that a home could be maintained without the financial contribution of the woman.

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